

Media Availability – January 28, 2022

Potential questions from the media

The situation is very fluid and all partners are preparing as much as possible.

The City has mobilized all resources and has a plan in place.

The safety of the public is our top priority and our main focus.

Please continue to monitor all social channels for updates.

Emergency Services

- **Will By-law officers be enforcing the regulations regarding transport trucks on undesignated roads?**

Transport trucks accessing non-truck routes is a moving violation enforced by the Ottawa Police Service.

- **What plans are being implemented to ensure emergency vehicles will be able to traverse roads occupied by protestors?**

The City is working with Police and other partners on traffic management; there will be dedicated lanes kept cleared for emergency vehicles.

By-law and Regulatory Services will have officers strategically placed in the downtown core from Friday afternoon through to Monday afternoon to ensure emergency routes are maintained free and clear of any vehicles. Any vehicles left unattended will be towed immediately.

- **Do emergency services have contingency plans in place in case they need to get downtown but are blocked?**

Emergency services throughout the city will be deployed; multiple partners are working together to manage traffic flow.

The Ottawa Paramedic Service and Ottawa Fire Services will also strike their Command Centres to ensure continued service delivery.

The Ottawa Paramedic Service and Ottawa Fire Services will be working with the National Capital Region Crisis Command Centre (NCRCC) and Traffic Incident Management Group (if required) to ensure regular information sharing.

- **What will you do if there is a Level Zero during this demonstration?**

Commented [CR1]: This response may be updated

The situation this weekend will be fluid. The Ottawa Paramedic Service is putting plans into place that are adaptable and we are working with our partners to ensure service continuity.

We have contingency plans in place when we reach Level Zero, which includes receiving support from Ottawa Fire Services and other local paramedic services.

Emergency services throughout the City will be deployed and focused on ensuring that the safety of the public is maintained and that dedicated lanes are kept cleared for emergency vehicles.

- **Do you have any security concerns about the massive amount of people that are expected to be in Ottawa for the protest?**

The Ottawa Police Service and its partners manage public safety-related issues at hundreds of demonstrations every year. The Police Liaison Team (PLT) has been working with the protest organizers to preserve the peace and minimize impacts for residents and businesses while protecting the right to demonstrate.

Roads

- **Will the roads and bridges in the downtown area be able to handle the load of multiple transport trucks?**

The City and Police have been working closely together to ensure that load capacity on the City's roads and bridges is not exceeded. There are plans in place to control access to and from the City to manage volumes.

- **Are there worries that the number of vehicles expected will cause a sinkhole, or a watermain break?**

As noted, planning has been put in place to avoid damage to the City's roads and bridges and to avoid over-congestion.

- **What will you do if a sinkhole, or watermain break, occurs?**

The City has a robust plan in place established to respond to any issue. In the event of a watermain break in the area of the demonstration, we will call the Police and they will provide an escort into the area, or clear any area of trucks to allow our crews to respond and ensure service continuity and mitigate any damage.

- **Will the City be closing streets to accommodate the protests?**
 - **If not, will you close them if required once they arrive?**

Yes, some road closures will be put in place for public safety purposes. For traffic updates please follow the City of Ottawa Traffic Account on Twitter or use a traffic monitoring app.

Other questions

- **Is the City closing amenities downtown?**

Ottawa City Hall and its amenities will be closed for public access due to its proximity to the demonstration area and nearby roadways that will be impacted by traffic delays and disruptions. The amenities include:

- Child care centre
 - City Hall parking garage - If residents have cars parked there prior to the closure, they will be able to access the garage.
 - Rink of Dreams
 - Ottawa Public Library's Main (120 Metcalfe) and Rideau (377 Rideau St.) branches will be closed Saturday and Sunday
 - The uOttawa Vaccine Clinic will be closed from Jan. 28th - Jan 30th
 - the Lowertown Neighbourhood Vaccine Hub will be closed Jan 28th
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- **There are reports of traffic cameras being turned off, is that correct? What is the reason?**

This is part of the MTO protocol, please reach out to them for more information.

- **How many vehicles is the City expecting will be arriving in the convoy? Is there an ETA for their arrival?**
- **Have organizers been cooperative with the City so far?**
- **What advice do you have for residents who need to go downtown for work, or other reasons tomorrow, and can't avoid it?**

Commented [JTT2]: Redirect to Police